

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-14 NSC-10 PRS-01 CPR-02 DODE-00 PM-09

RSC-01 RSR-01 /057 W

----- 042045

P 281222 Z MAR 73 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8572

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 1360

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO

SUBJ: BENHIMA VISIT

REF: RABAT 1339

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS BENHIMA DEPARTURE WITHOUT COMMENT EXCEPT FOR OPPOSITION AL- ALAM, WHICH APPENDS TO BREIF FACTUAL STATEMENT FOLLOWING PHRASE QUOTE: UNDOUBTEDLY BENHIMA' S TALKS WITH HIS AMERICAN OPPOSITE NUMBERS WILL DEAL WITH THE IMPROVEMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS WHICH HAVE LOST MUCH OF THEIR WARMTH RECENTLY. UNQUOTE

2. SIMILAR COMMENTS MADE YESTERDAY BY DR. AHMED BENABUD, DIRECTOR ARAB LEAGUE AFFAIRS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHO SAID FREEZE IN OUR RELATIONS SINCE AUG 1 6 PALPABLE AND KING COULD NOT GET OUT OF HIS MIND FACT PILOTS WHO TRIED SHOOT HIM DOWN WERE AMERICAN- TRAINED AND FLYING AMERICAN PLANES.

3. LESS DIRECT COMMENT MADE BY DEY OULD SIDE BABA WHEN I DELIVERED ORIGINAL TEXT OF PRESIDENT' S MARCH 16 LETTER. SAID WITH EMPHASIS HE HOPED BENHIMA' S VISIT WOULD BE FIRST OF MANY BY BOTH SIDES AND EXPRESSED HOPE PRESIDENT WOULD BE ABLE COME HERE DURING AFRICAN TOUR, ABOUT WHICH HE HAD READ PRESS REPORTS.

4. COMMENT: WHATEVER ACTUAL STATE OF OUR RELATIONS, SOME MOROCCANS APPARENTLY THINK THEY COULD BE BETTER.
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PARKER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Disposition Authority: golinofr
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